

## What Is The Historical Commission?

The Duxbury Historical Commission was organized in October, 1975, following appointment by the selectmen. Members of the commission are: Frederic Harrington, chairman; Ruth Wakefield, vice chairman; Sarina Myers, clerk; Alexandra Earle and William Nash.

The purpose, following guidelines established by the Massachusetts Historical Commission, is to research, identify and record the historical assets of the town and to develop and implement a program for their preservation in cooperation with other town agencies, public and private. The commission coordinates the activities of local groups interested in historic preservation and serves as the liaison between these groups and state and government agencies and preservation organizations. In addition, the commission may print material related to its work, make recommendations to the selectmen and receive gifts, grants and monetary contributions.

The primary activity of the commission at this time is to compile an inventory of assets including: archaeological and historic sites and areas, buildings prior to 1850, burial grounds and markers before 1830, monuments and other structures which are historically, architecturally, archaeologically or culturally significant to the town. Inventory listings for each area or property include exact location, complete statement of significance with appropriate documentation and a photograph.

### The Aim

Following the completion of an

accurate, comprehensive inventory, it is possible to establish historic districts, properties may be nominated for the National Register of Historic Places and preservation grants may be sought. The inventory provides material for the State Historic Preservation Plan which will assist the Mass. Historic Commission in protecting historic properties threatened by state or federally aided projects. It will also provide material for cooperative planning with the planning board and conservation commission and will serve as basic educational material for use by the community.

The Duxbury commission is particularly fortunate in having many records readily available through the research conducted by the Duxbury Rural and Historical Society and other groups and individuals through the years. With Duxbury's extensive historic assets, however, there is still much to be done. The commission hopes that townspeople interested in historic preservation will be willing to volunteer time to help in this research, especially in the inventory of early houses which will begin, by neighborhoods, in the near future. Call Fred Harrington (834-4382) for information.